



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
[www.epa.gov/region08](http://www.epa.gov/region08)

**NOV 06 2015**

Ref: 8P-W-UIC

Honorable Earl Howe III  
Chairman  
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma  
20 White Eagle Drive  
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Underground Injection Control Program  
Invitation for Informal Consultation on the  
Dewey-Burdock Uranium Recovery Site  
Near Edgemont, South Dakota

Dear Chairman Howe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program invites you and other representatives of the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to an informal consultation meeting or web conference with Region 8 staff and management. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the two UIC permit applications for EPA-regulated activities and related actions at the proposed Dewey-Burdock in-situ recovery (ISR) uranium site located in the southern Black Hills area, near Edgemont, South Dakota.

Please note that this meeting is not intended to be formal government-to-government consultation; it is an informal information exchange session intended to identify issues and concerns prior to formal consultation, if the Ponca Tribe prefers to continue to participate in this discussion and dialogue.

**Purpose of Informal Consultation**

During the meeting we would present information about the UIC permit applications submitted by Powertech (USA) Inc. to the EPA, the regulatory scope of the UIC Program and the EPA tribal consultation process. Background information about the proposed Dewey-Burdock uranium recovery project is enclosed with this letter. We would also discuss the EPA's approach to the NHPA Section 106 consultation process. During the rest of the meeting, the EPA would like to hear about the cultural interests the Ponca Tribe has in the Black Hills, the concerns your Tribe would have about the Dewey-Burdock Project in general, and any other topics of interest to your Tribe. The EPA will hold additional future informational conference calls and web conferences upon request to address questions and issues identified as the consultation process moves forward.

Enclosed with this letter is a list of tribes invited to join in this consultation process. As you review this list, please feel free to notify the EPA if you identify any other tribes that may attach significance to the Black Hills area but have not been included on this list.

We hope that representatives of the Ponca Tribe will be interested in meeting or having a web conference with the EPA Region 8 staff and management regarding informal consultation on the Dewey-Burdock UIC permit applications. If you request a meeting, we will work with the EPA Region 6 Tribal Program to arrange meeting space in Oklahoma City. In early November, the EPA Region 8 UIC Program will mail invitation letters for formal consultation with the tribes on the enclosed list, including the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. We would appreciate a reply from you by November 30, 2015, if you would like to have a meeting with us for informal consultation. Please reply back to Valois Shea, of my staff, indicating your preference for conducting informal consultation on the Dewey-Burdock Project. Ms. Shea can be reached at (800) 227-8917, extension 312-6276 or (303) 312-6276; or email [shea.valois@epa.gov](mailto:shea.valois@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Darcy O'Connor  
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance

Enclosures (7)

cc: Mr. Randy Gee, EPA Region 6 Indian Coordinator  
Mr. Mark Allen, EPA Region 6 GAP Project Officer & Tribal Ombudsman  
Mr. Philip Dellinger, EPA Region 6 UIC Program Chief

